



# Decisions of the 2016 Istanbul Congress

Final texts of the Acts signed at Istanbul  
and of the Decisions other than those amending the Acts

Berne 2017  
International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union

The present volume should be quoted under the following reference:

Decisions of the 2016 Istanbul Congress

**Note on the printing of the texts adopted by the 2016 Istanbul Congress reproduced in this volume.**

Bold type appearing in the texts of the Constitution, the Ninth Additional Protocol, the General Regulations, the First Additional Protocol of the General Regulations, the Rules of Procedure of Congresses, the Convention and the Postal Payment Services Agreement indicates amendments with respect to the Acts adopted by the 2012 Congress.

The declarations made on signature of the Acts, and the Constitution of the Universal Postal Union adopted at Vienna in 1964 and amended by the 1969 Tokyo, 1974 Lausanne, 1984 Hamburg, 1989 Washington, 1994 Seoul, 1999 Beijing and 2004 Bucharest Congresses, and the 24th Congress held in Geneva in 2008, as well as the recast General Regulations adopted by the 2012 Doha Congress, are reproduced in this volume for information purposes, but do not form part of the Acts signed at Istanbul.

## Universal Postal Convention

The undersigned, plenipotentiaries of the governments of the member countries of the Union, having regard to article 22.3 of the Constitution of the Universal Postal Union concluded at Vienna on 10 July 1964, have by common consent and subject to article 25.4 of the Constitution drawn up in this Convention the rules applicable throughout the international postal service.

### Section I

#### Rules applicable in common throughout the international postal service

##### Article 1

##### Definitions

1 For the purposes of the Universal Postal Convention, the following terms shall have the meanings defined below:

- 1.1 **letter-post item:** item described in and conveyed under the conditions of the Universal Postal Convention and Regulations;
- 1.2 **parcel-post item:** item described in and conveyed under the conditions of the Universal Postal Convention and Regulations;
- 1.3 **EMS item:** item described in and conveyed under the conditions of the Universal Postal Convention, Regulations and associated EMS instruments;
- 1.4 **documents:** a letter-post, parcel-post or EMS item consisting of any piece of written, drawn, printed or digital information, excluding objects of merchandise, whose physical specifications lie within the limits specified in the Regulations;
- 1.5 **goods:** a letter-post, parcel-post or EMS item consisting of any tangible and movable object other than money, including objects of merchandise, which does not fall under the definition of "documents" as provided in paragraph 1.4 above and whose physical specifications lie within the limits specified in the Regulations;
- 1.6 **closed mail:** labelled **receptacle(s)** sealed with or without lead, containing postal items;
- 1.7 **misrouted mails:** receptacles received at an office of exchange other than the one mentioned on the (**receptacle**) label;
- 1.8 **personal data:** information needed to identify a postal service user;
- 1.9 **missent items:** items received at an office of exchange meant for an office of exchange in another member country;
- 1.10 **transit charges:** remuneration for services rendered by a carrier in the country crossed (designated operator, other service or combination of the two) in respect of the land, sea and/or air transit of **letter-post items**;

## Convention

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- 3.2.1 a blind person means a person who is registered as blind or partially sighted in his or her country or who meets the World Health Organization's definition of a blind person or a person with low vision;
- 3.2.2 an organization for the blind means an institution or association serving or officially representing blind persons;
- 3.2.3 items for the blind shall include correspondence, literature in whatever format including sound recordings, and equipment or materials of any kind made or adapted to assist blind persons in overcoming the problems of blindness, as specified in **the Regulations**.

## Section IV Basic and supplementary services

### Article 17 Basic services

- 1 Member countries shall ensure that their designated operators accept, handle, convey and deliver letter-post items.
- 2 Letter-post items **containing only documents** are:
  - 2.1 priority items and non-priority items, up to 2 kilogrammes;
  - 2.2 letters, postcards **and** printed **papers**, up to 2 kilogrammes;
  - 2.3 items for the blind, up to 7 kilogrammes;
  - 2.4 special bags containing newspapers, periodicals, books and similar printed documentation for the same addressee at the same address called "M bags", up to 30 kilogrammes.
- 3 **Letter-post items containing goods are:**
  - 3.1 **priority and non-priority small packets, up to 2 kilogrammes.**
- 4 Letter-post items shall be classified on the **basis of both** the speed of treatment of the **items and** the contents of the items in accordance with **the Regulations**.
- 5 Within the classification systems referred to in 4, letter-post items may also be classified on the basis of their format as small letters (P), large letters (G), bulky letters (E) **or small packets (E)**. The size and weight limits are specified in **the Regulations**.
- 6 Higher weight limits than those indicated in paragraph 2 apply optionally for certain letter-post item categories under the conditions specified in **the Regulations**.
- 7 **Member** countries shall also ensure that their designated operators accept, handle, convey and deliver **parcel-post items** up to 20 kilogrammes.
- 8 Weight limits higher than 20 kilogrammes apply optionally for certain parcel-post **items** under the conditions specified in **the Regulations**.

### Article 18 Supplementary services

- 1 Member countries shall ensure the provision of the following mandatory supplementary services:
  - 1.1 registration service for outbound priority and airmail letter-post items;
  - 1.2 registration service for all inbound registered letter-post items.